India's position amongst corrupt nations

3746. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item titled "Graft biggest hurdle on road to progress" which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 4th January, 2001;

(b) whether India is the 66th most corrupt nation in the list of 85 prepared by the Transparent International;

(c) whether according to A.P. Chief Minister corruption is the biggest stumbling block on the road to progress and India would have to curb corruption with an iron hand besides improving vigilance and ensuring enforcement of anti-corruption laws;

(d) what are Government's views; and

(e) what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (e) The Government is aware of the news-item published in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 4th January, 2001 but no communication in this regard has been received from the A.P. Chief Minister. Further, as per the information furnished by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), the Transparency International, a Berlin based non-Governmental organisation, has been releasing Corruption Perception Index (CPI) for various countries. The CPI score relates to perception of degree of corruption as seen by business people, risk analysts and the general public and ranges between 10 (highly clean) to 0 (highly corrupt). The "1998 CPI score" was released in respect of 85 countries in which India appeared at S. No. 66-68 with 2.9 CPI score, which meant that 65 countries were perceived to be less corrupt and 17 countries were perceived to be more corrupt than India.

The Government is fully alive to the need to eradicate corruption at

all levels of public services. A three pronged strategy of surveillance, Prevention and Punitive/Deterrent action is followed by the Government. Various Ministries/Departments/Public Sector Undertakings are responsible to ensure probity and integrity in their respective organisations. Recognising that an important aspect of this strategy is Preventive Vigilance, steps have been taken to ensure transparency in public administration and initiate measures of administrative reforms such as introduction of Citizens' Charters, setting up of Facilitation Centres etc. The review and simplification of laws, rules and procedures has also been taken up. The punitive actions being taken under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 duly supported by various rules governing the service conditions of public servants, also acts as a deterrent against corruption. However, the drive against corruption in public services to check malpractices in administration is a continuing process. The policies formulated in this regard are modified from time to time in order to make them more effective and responsive to the changing environment. Besides, some of the recent major initiatives taken by the Government include introduction of Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1999 in Lok Sabha to confer statutory status upon the Commission, and Freedom of Information Bill, 2000 to bring greater transparency and accountability in the functioning of the Government.

Referring of cases to CBI by the State Governments

3747. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases referred to CBI by the various State Governments for detailed enquiry and the number of cases charge-sheeted;

(b) whether CBI has also refused to take up some cases referred by the State Governments; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that CBI is not willing to take up some cases for political reasons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF